



Shown above is the most recent architect's rendering of the new building. Groundbreaking for the new Rockville Regional Library will be at 12 noon on Jan. 24 in Town Center

Groundbreaking For New Rockville Library Is Jan. 24

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Rockville Regional Library, which will be one of the prime anchors of the Rockville Town Square project in the City's redeveloped Town Center, has been set for Monday, Jan. 24, at 12 noon at the ongoing construction site near Beall Avenue (between North Washington Street and Route 355).

Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan will preside over the ceremonies. Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo will be among the speakers. The public is invited to the festivities.

The library, which will cost approximately \$26.3 million, will be the largest in the Montgomery County system when completed. The front of the library will face the public plaza of the mixed-use Rockville Town Square, which is the major portion of Phase I of the overall Rockville Town Center rejuvenation envisioned by the City's Mayor and Council.

The library will be about 71,500 square feet, plus 12,700 square feet for library administration and another 14,700

square feet of office space for other county agencies. It will hold approximately 140,000 volumes from its present site on the corner of Maryland Avenue and Vinson Street. An additional 60,000 volumes will be purchased over a three-year period. There will be two large meeting rooms available for public use and 60 publicly accessible computers.

"We have planned for a new library for a long time, and knowing that the groundbreaking is just around the corner is getting a lot of people excited," said Daniel Beavin, manager of the Rockville Library. "This is going to be a library that will meet the needs of our devoted users of the past and will have futuristic elements that will attract new users."

The new library is scheduled to open in 2006. Plans call for a new district court to be built on the site of the current library.

For more information about Rockville's Town Center visit www.rockvillemd.gov/towncenter. **RR**

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy Honored by City at Fitzgerald Theatre on Jan. 17

Journalist and three-time national Emmy Award winner, Renee Poussaint, will join nearly 500 Rockville community members, speakers and performers to celebrate the significant achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on what would have been his 75th birthday on Monday, Jan. 17. One of the largest celebrations in the Washington, D.C. area, the 33rd Annual "Living the Dream" community celebration will take place at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at 12 noon.

The public is invited to attend the free event, which is made possible by the Mayor and Council of Rockville and the Rockville Human Rights Commission.

We have titled this year's event "A Dream for all of Us" in an attempt to celebrate our City's diversity," said Enilda Abreu, chair of Rockville's Human Rights Commission. "It is an opportunity for those of us that migrated to the U.S. to show the admiration and respect we feel for Martin Luther King, Jr."

This year's keynote speaker, Poussaint, will address Dr. King's significant impact not only in America, but also throughout the world. Poussaint is best known for her journalism work at ABC News



Renee Poussaint

and for her appearances on the Discovery Network, A&E and Lifetime Television.

"We're lucky to have such a dynamic speaker for this significant event," said Janet Kelly, Rockville's liaison to the Human Rights Commission. "Renee Poussaint will add incredible depth to this year's celebration."

In addition, the nationally renown Washington, D.C.-based Duke Ellington School Concert Choir will perform a selection of inspiring songs under the direction of Samuel Bonds. Jeff Ball, a Rockville native, will play the American Indian flute along with a dancer from the American Indian Society of Washington, D.C.

The City's cable television station, TRC 11, will present a

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video tribute "A Dream for All of Us," which will detail the impact Dr. King, Jr.'s work had on those throughout the world.

One of the most exciting parts of the celebration each year is the presentation of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Award and the F. Michael Taff Award. Last year's winners were John Meirs (Taff Award) of the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities and Richard Montgomery High School senior Christopher Kroeker (MLK, Jr., Youth Award). Each winner is highly regarded as a leader in community service and a champion of civil rights for all.

For more information about this year's program, contact Kelly at 240-314-8316 or visit the City's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Any individual who needs assistance, contact the City's ADA Coordinator may call 240-314-8139, or TTY 240-314-8137. **RR**



A WARM WELCOME...
New City Manager Scott Ullery received a warm welcome from the many residents he met during his early days on the job. He has participated in numerous community meetings, such as the East Rockville Citizens Association meeting in December, where he talked with business owner Ruth Hanessian.

January's Best of Rockville

Jan. 1

Peerless Rockville's 30th Annual New Year's Day Brunch Buffet brunch, music, tours of decorated mansion and more. Bring friends, family and a dish. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Glenview Mansion. \$15 general admission. 301-762-0096.

Jan. 30

Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra 40-member student orchestra performs under the direction of Leah Kocsis. 7:30 p.m. FREE, tickets required. For tickets, call the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office at 240-314-8690.



Jan. 30

Groundhog Day Celebration Puxatawney Phil has nothing on Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center! Celebrate the most famous animal forecaster with games, crafts and more. 2-4 p.m. All ages. Croydon Creek Nature Center. FREE. 240-314-8770.

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Focus on TC TRAFFIC

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, "Focus On" will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

Traffic and transportation are ongoing concerns to Rockville's citizens, especially in areas of new development such as Town Center. In order to lessen the impact of traffic on citizens living in neighborhoods near Town Center, the City of Rockville's Traffic and Transportation Division has begun organizing committees of citizens to offer feedback on ways to decrease cut-through traffic and improve safety and mobility in their neighborhoods.

"While working with all local neighborhoods on traffic concerns is one of our primary goals, we recognize that Town Center will significantly affect a large number of areas," said Larry Marcus, chief of traffic and transportation. "We are working with representatives from each of those areas to create the most effective plan possible."

Steering committees comprised of five to seven citizens are forming for each neighborhood that is anticipated to be affected by increased traffic in Town Center.

Committee members will collaborate to review existing and future conditions and devise initial plans for traffic calming in their neighborhoods.

Steering committees have already been formed for three main areas in the City.

The next steering committee meeting, which will focus on the fourth area (Burgandy Estates, Burgandy Knolls, Charles Walk, East Rockville, Lincoln Park, RedGate Farms and the Rockville House Authority residents), will take place Wednesday, Jan. 5, from 7-9 p.m. in the Boards and Commissions Conference Room at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. New members from Area Four are needed to participate.

If you are interested in joining the steering committee for Area Four or other areas near Town Center, or have questions about the project, contact Katherine Kelly, a Rockville transportation planner, at 240-314-8527 or kkelly@rockville.md.gov, or Dwayne Jenkins, neighborhood resource coordinator, at 240-314-8343 or djenkins@rockville.md.gov. **RR**



City Projects UPDATE

Recreation & Parks

GENERAL PROJECTS

Asphalt/Concrete • Seal Elwood Smith Community Center parking lot • Work to be completed this spring as weather allows.

Athletic Courts • Replace tennis court lights at Woodley Gardens • Work to be completed in February.

City Hall Improvements • Reorganization and renovation of second and third floor interior spaces of City Hall for improved use efficiencies • Construction on the Bouic House has been completed • Construction to begin in City Hall mid-January and is expected to take approximately 18 months.

Civic Center Long Range Plan • Feasibility study underway to identify adequate and accessible parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and stormwater management on the Civic Center grounds • Study and design recommendations to be completed this winter.

Dog Park • Design has been incorporated into the King Farm 28-acre park • Final design to be completed this winter • Rockville Dog Owners Group (RDOG) continues to participate in the planning process.

Energy Performance Contract • Energy savings project for City facilities through the Maryland Energy Administration's energy performance contract • Equipment replacement is 95 percent complete. Planning and installation of the energy management system is 80 percent complete • Completion of all installations is expected by the end of December.

Gude Drive Facility Improvements • Modernization and expansion of the City's Public Works and Parks maintenance complex in four phases • Phase I includes replacement of the salt dome, stormwater management upgrades, access improvements and improved debris storage • Construction documents out to bid this winter.

I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 grant for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway

Administration • Bids received exceeded budget • Design being revised and will be re-bid this winter.

King Farm Farmstead • Contract to stabilize the pole barn has been awarded • Work will begin as soon as the ownership of the property has been transferred from the developer to the City • All work will be in compliance with task force recommendations and with Historic District Commission approvals.

King Farm 28-Acre Park • Details of the park plan have been completed, incorporating comments from the public and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board • Final design to be completed this winter.

Millennium Trail • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road • Construction is expected to be completed by the end of December • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently awaiting Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) approval • Majority of cost for both projects covered by TEA-21 grants awarded by Maryland SHA.

Playground Equipment Improvements • Replacement equipment at Maryvale and Elwood Smith parks have been designed with input from neighborhood children • Installation has begun and is expected to be completed by January.

Urban Forest Renewal • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook, Fallsmead, Potomac Woods and other neighborhoods is ongoing • Replacement plantings take place in the spring and fall.

Public Works

TRANSPORTATION

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements • Maryland Route 28 and Great Falls Road intersection improvements are complete • Mannakee Street sidewalk is complete • Nelson Street crosswalk for access to park to be constructed in spring.

Fallsgrove-Funded Transportation Improvements • Majority of the projects are complete • Those yet to be finished include Gude Drive and Gaither Road (construction started mid-Oct.), I-270, Maryland Route 28 and Nelson Street (construction underway) • I-270 and Shady Grove Road beginning in August.

Right Turn Lane West Bound at Research Boulevard • Construction of second right turn lane to Research Boulevard is complete.

Watts Branch Parkway Traffic Calming • Design underway • Construction improvement at Aintree Drive expected to begin this spring.

STREAM AND STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS
Alsace Lane Stream Restoration • Design underway on 500 feet of stream in the Rock Creek drainage area • Construction planned for summer 2006.

Carnation/I-270 SWM Retrofit • Modify existing stormwater management facilities to implement stream erosion control and improve 600 feet of stream in Watts Branch drainage area • Design underway • Construction planned for summer.

College Gardens Low Impact Design (LID) SWM Study • Surveys distributed to residents in October • Consultants are evaluating various LID techniques on public and private property to improve Watts Branch water quality and reduce runoff • Study kick-off meeting with the community was held in October.

College Gardens Low Impact Design (LID) SWM Grant Implementation • Workshops on rain gardens and rain barrels were held in October • College Gardens Civic Association and the College Gardens Garden Club are soliciting the neighborhood to find volunteers to implement LID techniques on private property.

North Horners Lane Stream Improvement • 200 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Construction is planned for summer.

Northeast Park Stormwater Management Retrofit • Modify existing SWM facility in Rock Creek drainage area • The Northeast Park construction is ongoing with completion projected for spring.

RedGate Golf Course SWM Retrofit • Modify existing SWM facility and improve 600 feet of stream in the Rock Creek drainage area. Design is complete. Construction planned for summer.

Woottons Mill Stream Improvement • 4,400 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Stream restoration is from Watts Branch Parkway to Wootton Parkway in Woottons Mill Park • Pedestrian access will continue • Construction will start in January and be completed in January 2006.

UTILITIES

Adclare Water Main Replacement • Approximately 620 feet of six-inch water main in Adclare Road will be replaced with eight-inch water main • Design has started and construction is expected to begin in early 2006.

North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement • Water main upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Construction is ongoing.

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping for the southeastern area of Twinbrook, has been completed and the results are being evaluated • Prioritization of repairs will be based on cost effectiveness • Schedule for construction has not been set.

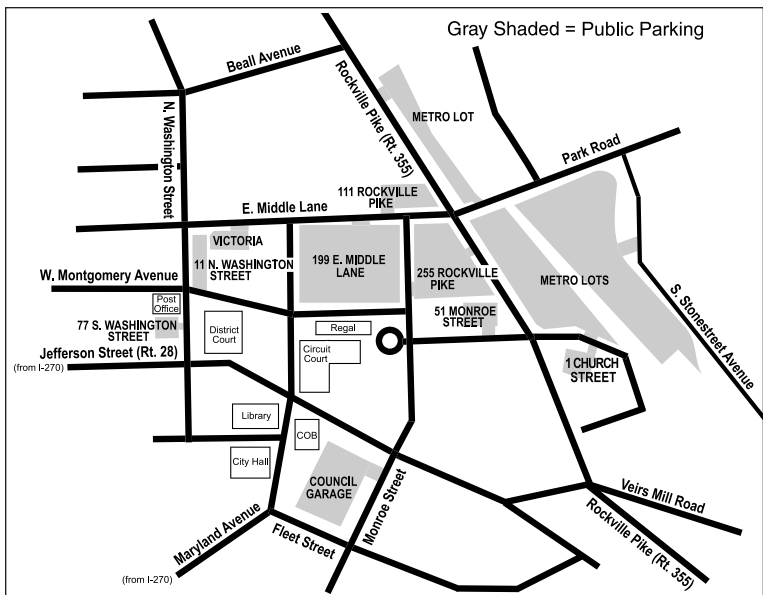
WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Glen Mill Pump Station • Project will provide the additional pumping capacity needed to provide sufficient water supply to the entire Rockville water system • Construction started in Sept. 2004 and will be completed in Sept. 2005.

Water Treatment Plant • Major upgrade in the treatment plant to allow a maximum daily production of 14 million gallons is essentially complete • Construction of covers over the filter wells is complete • An emergency generator will be added and improvements to sludge handling facilities are being studied.

Clean and Line Water Mains

• Project will improve the capacity and flow in the water distribution • Approximately 6,500 feet of water main will be improved • The water main improvement starts at the intersection of Aster Boulevard at Nelson Street and runs along Nelson Street to Mannakee Street; continues from Wilson Avenue to Owens Street, and stops at Carr Avenue • Construction planned for spring.



This map shows the numerous public parking options available to drivers in Rockville Town Center.

Where to Park In Town Center

Town Square construction has not stopped many from coming to Rockville to enjoy the numerous businesses that continue to provide quality services to the public.

Among the countless things to do in Town Center is eat a wide variety of food at restaurants from many parts of the world, get a prescription filled, have a picture framed, see a movie, meet for a cocktail, get clothes dry cleaned and print out documents.

Some regular Town Center customers have needed to find new parking options in order to patronize their regular businesses.

Above is a map that shows the many public options available.

Convenient, pre-paid parking cards that can be used at 394 new parking meters around Rockville are now available for purchase in various amounts from the cashier at Rockville City Hall from 8:30 a.m. -5 p.m. Monday through Friday. [RR](#)

Public Input Sought on Transforming Maryvale To More Useful, Natural Park

Maryvale Park in East Rockville, which includes a softball field within a stormwater management pond, may undergo some changes.

The City is asking for citizen input on a proposed plan that would create a smaller, more natural wetland stormwater management area in the park and construct a new multi-use field that would be suitable for soccer and other events.

The wetlands would be added near the Longwood Drive park entrance to help treat runoff and add a more attractive, natural element to the park.

"Many people are not aware that the softball field in Maryvale Park is actually a dry-pond, a large stormwater management facility designed to collect water runoff after heavy storms," said John Hollida, project manager with the City's Department of Public Works.

The water does not drain as intended from the pond. The field can only be used at limited

times because it remains wet long after the rain has stopped.

"The new plan separates out the stormwater management function from the ballfield, creating a better playing field and a more functional, attractive stormwater management facility," said Hollida.

Included with the park improvement plans are open green space areas and pedestrian access around the wetlands and soccer field. A similar facility of this kind is working successfully in Rockville's Potomac Woods Park.

At a public meeting on Nov. 30 and an informal meeting with the East Rockville Citizens Association on Dec. 14, residents provided favorable feedback on the plan.

Additional comments or suggestions from the public are encouraged. Contact Hollida at jhollida@rockville.md.gov (240-314-8500) or Bo Ferguson in the City Manager's Office at bferguson@rockville.md.gov (240-314-8105). [RR](#)

Rockville Holiday Drive Support Still Needed

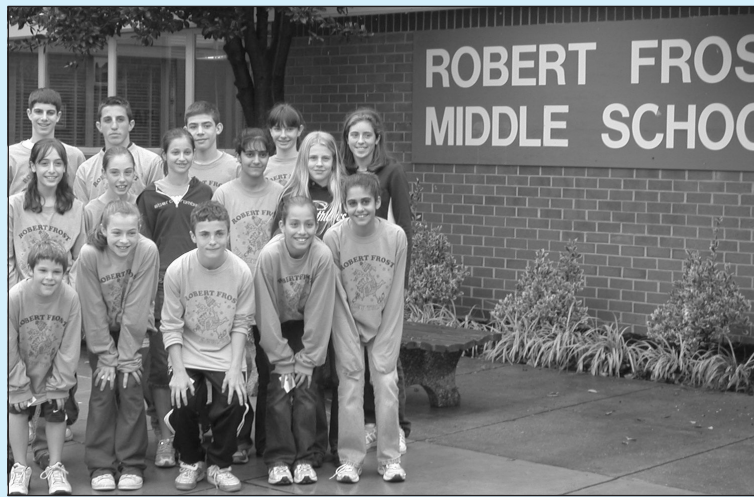
Residents still have an opportunity to *Take Part and Give from the Heart*, in line with the motto for the City of Rockville's annual Holiday Drive.

The drive culminated with a toy drive on Dec. 18, but monetary donations are still needed to cover the food and gift certificates that will be distributed.

Referrals received by the City for households in need of assistance increased almost 15 percent over last year. In response, the City, with its partners, including the Mount Calvary Baptist Church, the Basket Brigade and Manna Food Center, provided more than 900 food baskets to those in need just before Thanksgiving.

More than 170 volunteers helped with the City's Thanksgiving distribution, sorting, packing and distributing food at a site provided by C. J. O'Shaughnessy, Inc.

Major food drives were conducted by a number of



In November, the students at Frost Middle School in Rockville presented a check to the City in support of the Rockville Holiday Drive for \$1,600. The check represents funds the students raised on Thursday, Nov. 18, from their "Turkey Trot" running event.

Rockville schools. Richard Montgomery High School led the effort, collecting over 6,000 cans of food. Robert Frost Middle School donated canned food and \$1,600 raised from their annual Turkey Trot.

For those who wish to donate to the Holiday Drive, checks made payable to the Rockville

Holiday Drive Fund can be dropped off or mailed to the City of Rockville Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, 20 Courthouse Square #205, Rockville MD 20850. For more information about the Holiday Drive visit www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/holidaydrive. [RR](#)

Trash Talkin': City Seeks Views on Refuse

The cost of collecting refuse has been escalating steadily in Rockville and throughout the Washington metropolitan area in recent years. Rockville has been known for providing "premium collection service" compared to most other jurisdictions, but constantly rising bills have led the Mayor and Council to wonder if there is a more efficient—and less expensive—method to collect refuse.

In early December, a survey was mailed to 2,000 homes selected randomly throughout Rockville. The survey asks a number of questions about whether residents would be interested in changes to the current service in exchange for controlling costs.

The surveys are due to R.W. Beck, a waste management consultant hired by the City, by Dec. 29. That firm will

bring the results to the Mayor and Council to analyze residents' desire for changes.

"The City currently charges \$27.75 per household per month to provide collection service," said City Manager Scott Ullery. "This rate has increased approximately seven percent for each of the past four years, and is slated to increase by a similar amount in the future. While Rockville prides itself on providing the best service to its residents, it is not possible to sustain the current system with only moderate future rate increases."

Among the service changes the survey asks about are a possible move to automated service. With automated service, residents will be given a special wheeled cart in which to place their garbage. The cart will be large enough to contain a full week's worth of garbage

for a family of five and could lead to once a week collections rather than the current twice a week service.

The survey also asks if residents who now receive backdoor collection service, requiring refuse collectors to go behind homes to gather trash and then return containers to those spots, would be willing to pay more to continue the service. Another question asks all residents if they feel those receiving backdoor service should pay more than residents who bring their trash to the curb.

Residents who have received the survey and have questions, or those who were not selected for the survey and have comments, can contact the City at 240-314-8500.

A copy of the refuse study can be viewed at www.rockvillemd.gov. [RR](#)



CHANGES AHEAD... City Director of Finance, Donna Boxer (far left), and Acting Director of Neighborhood and Community Services, Chris Bartlett, each said good-bye to Rockville in December after long tenures working for the City government. Boxer will become the new Director of Finance for the Virginia Railway Express commuter line based in Northern Virginia. Dominic Del Pozzo will serve as Acting Finance Director. Bartlett, who has held a variety of positions in his 17 years with the City, is taking a position with a homebuilder based in Rockville. He helped create Rockville's highly praised Division of Neighborhood Resources. Mary Lou Jacobs has been named Acting Director of NCS.

City Public Works Employee Saves Life On the Job

For more than 20 years, Robert Vann of the City's Public Works Department had not used the lifesaving skills he learned as a volunteer firefighter in 1972. But last summer, his CPR knowledge helped save the life of a fellow employee who he considers among his good friends.

Vann was honored for his selfless deed by Mayor Larry Giammo and about 300 of his fellow employees on Thursday, Dec. 2, at the City's annual Employee Service Awards Ceremony.

The ceremony is held each year to honor those celebrating milestone years of City work. This year, 81 employees were honored for more than 1,000 combined years of service to Rockville and a special certificate was presented to Vann for his lifesaving efforts.

On Aug. 6, Vann and a co-worker, both in the Public Works Maintenance Division, were performing routine maintenance work on a sidewalk in the Twinbrook neighborhood when several yellow jackets appeared.

"There was a tree next to where we were working and a



Maintenance worker Robert Vann helped save the life of a co-worker last summer.

few came out and stung him," said Vann.

After receiving stings on his head and arm, the co-worker started to feel poorly. Vann said the co-worker told him he thought he was allergic to bee stings, but said he would be OK. The co-worker went to rest in a nearby City truck they had used to bring out their equipment for the day.

A few minutes later, Vann looked up to see how he was doing in the truck.

"The door was open, but I couldn't see him," Vann said. Vann went over to the truck and found him laying across the front seat.

"His eyes were open and fixed and he wasn't breathing," he said.

While many people might have panicked in this situation, Vann knew what to do thanks to the training he received as a fire department volunteer for 12 years.

He immediately called the Public Works dispatch to ask for emergency help, pulled the man from the truck and began to perform CPR until help arrived.

"The rescue person said I saved his life, but I just did what I had to do. He would do the same for me," he said. "We're pretty good friends—we're like brothers."

At work now, Vann says he watches others in his crew even more closely than before the experience.

"I always try to keep my eye on everybody in the crew so you know what's going on," he said. "If an emergency arrived again, I'd do the same thing. We all look out for each other." **RR**

Se buscan nominaciones de buenos vecinos

Con motivo de celebrarse el tercer programa de Premios a los Buenos Vecinos patrocinado por el Alcalde y el Consejo, se invita a los ciudadanos a nominar a cualquier persona adulta o joven que haya efectuado contribuciones excepcionales para mejorar la calidad de vida en su vecindario de Rockville.

Cada candidato propuesto debe ser residente de la Ciudad de Rockville, haber efectuado su contribución significativa entre julio de 2004 y mayo de 2005, haber realizado esfuerzos que superan el alcance de sus responsabilidades como ciudadano y haber demostrado interés por su vecindario o la calidad de vida en la Ciudad de Rockville. Los empleados de la ciudad no son elegibles para el premio.

Para nominar a alguien para ser premiado por su servicio excepcional, llar al señor Dwayne Jenkins, Coordinador de Recursos del Vecindario, al 240-314-8343. **RR**

— Translated by
Victoria Imas- Duchovney

Snow Reminders

Inclement Weather Updates

The City of Rockville announces inclement weather status through several outlets.

To find out whether a City meeting or recreation program has been cancelled due to the winter weather, always check the City's Web site (www.rockvillemd.gov), The Rockville Channel (Cable Channel 11) and most major radio and television stations for Rockville City government closings and delays.

The Rockville Recreation Inclement Weather hotline number is 240-314-5020.

Snow Shoveling

Snow must be removed from all sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and the paved right-of-way sidewalk immediately fronting or abutting a property. This includes access ramps and curb cuts designed for use by people with disabilities.

Snow and ice removal must occur within 24 hours if the snowfall is less than 3 inches and within 48 hours if it surpasses 3 inches. Fines may be imposed if the City ordinance is not followed. Call 240-314-8330 for more information.

Snow Emergency Plan May Be Used This Winter

The innovative snow emergency plan put into effect in Rockville for the first time last winter proved to be an overwhelming success in many City neighborhoods. This winter, the City expects the plan to have an even bigger impact as more residents are now familiar with the details.

Rockville's plan differs from snow emergency plans of most area jurisdictions because it is geared toward helping clear residential streets, rather than just major streets.

According to the Rockville policy passed in the summer of 2003, after a snow emergency is declared, residents are requested to park their cars in available garages or driveways on their properties. When that is not possible, residents are required to park only on sides of the street with even house numbers.

Once that lane and the main part of the street is cleared, cars must be moved to the cleared curb (odd-numbered side). Violators may be ticketed or towed. When both sides of the street are cleared, cars can be parked in regular spaces.

Rockville's plan first was utilized following a six-inch snowfall in late January 2004. Blocks that demonstrated 100 percent cooperation with the plan allowed crews to clear the streets with remarkable efficiency, said Hal Cranor, Rockville's director of Public Works. He credited neighbors, and neighborhood associations, with passing the policy on to all residents.

Conditions leading to a "snow emergency" are significant, deep snow. The City Manager may declare a "snow emergency" and will announce the status through local media, via the City's Web site (www.rockvillemd.gov) and on The Rockville Channel (Cable



Many people helped each other clear sidewalks and driveways during a large snow storm last year.

Channel 11). The "snow emergency" ordinance states:

- The City Manager may invoke "snow emergency" parking restrictions
- The City may remove or impound cars improperly parked
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the streets as one enters the cul-de-sac or court
- No parking is allowed in the "bulb" of the cul-de-sac or court
- After the snowfall ends and the odd-numbered side of the street is cleared, vehicles must be moved to the odd-numbered side to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side
- A fine of \$100 for a "snow emergency" parking violation will be incurred

For more information, call 240-314-8500. **RR**



Carl Petersen was honored by the Mayor and Council for editing his community newsletter "The Lantern" and helping in many other ways in the Potomac Woods community last year.

Helping Hands: Nominate A City Good Neighbor

Citizens are invited to nominate any adult or youth who has made exceptional contributions to improve the quality of life in their Rockville neighborhood for the third annual Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Awards program.

Each nominee must be a resident of the City of Rockville, must have made their significant contribution between July 2004 and May 2005, must have demonstrated efforts beyond the scope of citizen responsibilities and must have demonstrated concern for their neighborhood or quality of life in Rockville. City employees are not eligible for the award.

"Each year we are continuously 'wowed' by the heartwarming stories of neighbors

helping neighbors," said Neighborhood Resources Coordinator Dwayne Jenkins, who is overseeing the awards program. "There's no incentive or payment for their good deeds. It's just the best of human nature, pure and simple."

Last year, the Mayor and Council rewarded 31 "Good Neighbors" with awards during a televised ceremony.

To nominate someone for exceptional service during this year's award period (July 2004-May 2005), submit a completed nomination to Jenkins at 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. The form and more information is available at www.rockvillemd.gov or by calling 240-314-8343. **RR**

INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the City Government at Work

A Plan for the Pike

Residents, Business Owners Help Craft Guide To Future of Rockville Pike

Maryland Route 355 is considered among the busiest local roads in the State of Maryland. And few sections of that road are busier than the 1.5-mile strip north of Twinbrook Parkway and south of Richard Montgomery Drive—part of the section known as Rockville Pike.

With new development looming—which is sure to spur even more redevelopment of existing properties—the City of Rockville is embarking on an update of the Rockville Pike Corridor Neighborhood Plan that was adopted in 1989.

In the 15 years that have passed, market conditions have led to a Rockville Pike Corridor that does not necessarily resemble the vision expressed by the 1989 plan. It is now appropriate to review that version and its accompanying recommendations. Future growth on Rockville Pike also will affect surrounding neighborhoods.

“There already is a movement for major development, especially around the Twinbrook Metro Station. We hope to create a plan that will guide the future of Rockville Pike so it will benefit property owners, business owners and the residents who live nearby,”

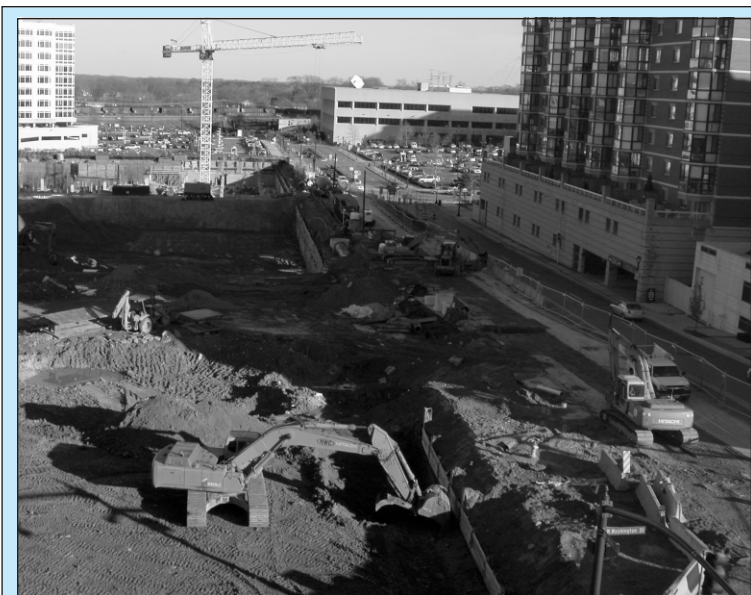
said Jim Wasilak, Rockville’s chief of long-range planning.

The City held a well-attended community kick-off meeting on Dec. 8 at the DoubleTree Hotel to explain the process that will produce the new Rockville Pike Corridor Plan. Rockville’s Department of Community Planning and Development Services is forming an advisory group of 20-25 stakeholders to help. A consultant will be hired to work on the updated plan. It is hoped Rockville’s Mayor and Council will be able to adopt a final plan in early 2006.

Future community meetings will be held through May to constantly solicit input from citizens associations, individual residents and business owners.

“We want to start out by knowing how people feel about what is there today, including what has been built over the last 15 years—and what may need to be modified or added to the current plan,” said Theodis Perry, Jr., of Rockville’s Division of Long-Range Planning.

For more information about the Rockville Pike Corridor Plan, contact Perry at 240-314-8213. **RR**



MORE FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR TOWN CENTER ... As Town Center construction continues, support for the project remains strong. In November, Congress approved an additional amount of approximately \$1 million for Town Center, which will be used to help build infrastructure that supports multiple transportation options including sidewalks, curbs, gutters, signage, lighting and landscaping. The Mayor and Council worked with Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski to garner the significant funding.

Akridge Again Revises Plans for ‘The Fitzgerald’

The Akridge Development Company has further revised its plans for condominium units and retail space in Rockville Town Center, in response to concerns of the Mayor and Council, the City’s Planning Commission and views expressed at a November public hearing.

However, the Mayor and Council, at a worksession on Dec. 13, directed the applicants and City staff to meet and discuss other possible modifications to the proposed development that would cover half of the current surface parking lot across from the restaurant row and Regal Cinema on East Montgomery Avenue.

Members of the Mayor and Council also expressed a desire to know how Akridge intends to develop the other half of the property before considering the Preliminary Development Plan for “The Fitzgerald” at 196 East Montgomery.

Both properties currently have approval for office buildings that could be as high as 22 stories. Akridge is seeking a change in use for half the property, hoping to develop a residential and retail complex.

In September, Akridge (un-

der the name of Rockville Renaissance West, LLC) proposed building 292 condominium units and seven “townhouse-lofts” in buildings of varied heights—some as tall as about 18 stories—for the complex that would be part of Rockville Town Center.

The newest proposal would reduce the total number of condominiums to 260 (including elimination of the townhouse-lofts); increase the amount of retail space to 23,000 (up from 17,340 in the first presentation); and modify the height of buildings that would front a new Renaissance Street to 150 feet (16 stories, down from about 19 stories) and fronting East Montgomery Avenue to 70 feet (about seven stories). The widths of sidewalks on Maryland Avenue, East Montgomery Avenue and the proposed new Renaissance Street increased to 20 feet (from 15).

The Planning Commission reviewed the new plan on Oct. 27 and recommended that the Mayor and Council reject it. The final decision for approval lies with the Mayor and Council, who may address the plans again in January. **RR**

Robbins Attends National League of Cities Conference

Councilmember Anne Robbins represented Rockville at the 81st Congress of Cities and Exposition in Indianapolis Nov. 30-Dec. 4.

The conference, organized by the National League of Cities, is

geared primarily for elected officials to network and discuss national trends affecting cities and towns across the country. The conference offers the opportunity to participate in valuable leadership workshops. **RR**



Mayor
Larry Giammo



Councilmember
Robert E. (Bob) Dorsey



Councilmember
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk’s Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, the Councilmember scheduled for January is:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 18:** Anne Robbins

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), and are available on streaming video at: www.rockvillemd.gov. Citizens may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the “Citizens Forum” portion at most general session meetings. All meetings are subject to change.

- **Jan. 10 (Mon.)** Worksession (Historic District Commission), 5:30 p.m., General Session/Public Hearings (Falls Grove, Twinbrook, Town Center), 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 18 (Tues.)** Worksession (FY06 Budget, Mayor and Council Goals), 7 p.m.

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Cultural Arts Commission (one)
- Environment Commission (one)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (one at-large)
- Human Rights Commission (two)
- Rockville Scholarship Fund (one)
- Rockville Seniors, Inc. (one)
- Rockville Sister City Corp. (two)
- Traffic and Transportation (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.



TWEAKING TWINBROOK...One major new development that will greatly influence the long-term future of Rockville Pike is the planned mixed-use Twinbrook Commons, which will cover approximately 26 acres around the Twinbrook Metro Station. The JBG Company is proposing 1,706 residences, 220,000 square feet of retail and 325,000 square feet of office space for Twinbrook Commons. On Dec. 15, the City’s Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the plan. Several public hearings on the proposal are scheduled to be held by the Mayor and Council on Monday, Jan. 10.

Student Lecture Series Debuts At Croydon Creek Nature Center in January

Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center (CCNC) is expanding its role in educating area students about their natural world through a new lecture series for high school and middle school students. The series on science topics will help students fulfill a graduation requirement.

The first lecture, "Women in Science," will take place Saturday, Jan. 22, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the nature center in Civic Center Park at 852 Avery Road in Rockville.

Through the new lecture series, CCNC hopes to connect junior and senior high school students with real world scientists, current research, off-mainstream topics and most importantly, resources that are within their own backyard.

"The 'Women in Science' lecture was created to have real world scientists encourage young women to enter a field they may not have considered in the past or thought of as too difficult," said Patrice Thomas, a naturalist at Croydon Creek Nature Center. "This is a wonderful opportunity for young women to meet nationally prominent scientists and learn the path they took to get where they are today"

The first of three lecture series, "Women in Science" will feature nationally renowned



Volunteer Elizabeth Weisburger, a retired researcher from the Cancer Institute, helped organize the new lecture.

women scientists from a wide variety of scientific fields. They will use their educational backgrounds, work experience and research to encourage young women to pursue scientific careers.

Though the lecture is based on women in science and directed toward young women curious about the field, young men and adults also are encouraged to attend.

"The Science of Roadkill" and "Horseshoe Crabs: The True Blue Bloods," will be topics of lectures presented this spring. To register, or for more information about the lecture series, contact the Croydon Creek Nature Center at 240-314-8770 or check www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek. **RR**



Courtesy of Sharyn Duffin and Peerless Rockville.

Miss Gladys Boston's all black class at Rock Terrace Elementary School in spring 1959.

The Road To Brown v. BOE: New Peerless Rockville Exhibit Examines Impact of School Desegregation in City

A new traveling exhibit sponsored by Peerless Rockville called, "Rockville on the Road to Brown: Schooling Our Children from Segregation to Integration," is on tour throughout the area and there are only a few days left to see it in Rockville this month before the exhibit moves to Gaithersburg in January.

The display was created by Peerless Rockville, an award-winning nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the City's history. It explores a century-long journey from the first segregated schools for white and black students after the Civil War through completion of the integration process in 1961. The exhibit also looks at the role of Rockville people and places in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision,

Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka.

"Rockville on the Road to Brown" draws on a diverse array of resources, including public documents, school records, photographs and maps, and personal narratives of area residents who attended or taught in segregated Montgomery County schools.

The exhibit is organized into six thematic sections and includes a timeline of events that connects local history with broader national movements toward school integration and racial equality. One segment includes a history of segregated education that underscores Rockville's critical role as the county seat and largest town.

This project was made possible by grants from the Carl

M. Freeman Foundation, Joan Zenzen and Stuart Weinstein, and the Maryland Humanities Council, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It opened recently at two historic educational venues: the Montrose School on Randolph Road and Lincoln High School in Lincoln Park.

In December, the exhibit will be available for viewing at the Rockville Regional Library in Town Center. In January, it will show at the Gaithersburg Community Museum at the Gaithersburg B&O Railroad Station. In February, it will be on display at Rockville High School and then at Lake Forest Mall.

For more information, visit www.peerlessrockville.org or call 301-762-0096. **RR**



HISTORIC ROCKVILLE PAINTINGS COLOR THE WALLS OF CITY HALL... Citizens are invited to City Hall to enjoy the beauty of paintings detailing local historic homes. That beauty is also something citizens can take home into their living rooms. Nearly 30 detailed and vibrant watercolor paintings of Rockville's historic homes created by local artist Connie Woolard are on display—and on sale—in the City Hall main lobby. The show will run through February. A portion of the proceeds benefit Rockville's arts program.



Holiday Tree Collection

Holiday trees will be collected by Rockville's Public Works crews throughout January. Place cut trees by the curb on recycling days. Artificial trees and wreaths bound with wire should be put out with regular refuse. For cut trees, remove metal base stands, nails and all decorations including tinsel. Place the whole tree at the curb without a plastic disposal bag. After Jan. 31, trees must be cut and stacked in bundles and put out with recycling.

SOMOS Makes Learning Fun for Latino Students at Richard Montgomery High

More than a dozen students at Richard Montgomery High School are learning about their culture, meeting role models and forming an important social and academic support network through a unique club called SOMOS that has been operating at RMHS for three years.

Loosely translated into English, "SOMOS" means "we are Latinos." The group's goal is to celebrate Latinos' unique role in American society through field trips that include visits to art museums and meeting with the Hispanic Caucus, social events and art projects.

SOMOS was created by and is led by the City's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and Richard Montgomery High School, through Latino outreach coordinator, John Leary.

"They participate in a lot of



Traditional dancing was one part of the Hispanic Pride Month celebrations.

activities," said Marcial Candido, a Youth, Family and Community Services specialist and group advisor for Rockville. "We schedule events throughout the school year so they learn about the value of Latinos in America while getting the support they need to become a successful part of society. We help them be successful students and many go on to apply to universities."

One of the group's most im-

portant events each year is Hispanic Pride Month. In November, the students presented a colorful and entertaining program for the entire school that featured traditional dances, musical performances and poetry recitation to highlight contributions from Latinos throughout U.S. history.

Students in SOMOS also are creating a colorful mural as a permanent reminder of Latino pride at their school.

"Art is a powerful tool to bring together communities," said Candido, who combines his interest in art and counseling to assist the students with the mural project. "Working together to create a mural takes a lot of communication and group decisions. Kids learn that as individuals they can contribute to making the group, and the whole school community, a success." **RR**

In Brief

New State Fee On Utility Bills

In May 2004, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. signed legislation creating the Bay Restoration Fund. The fund establishes a \$2.50 per month fee — \$7.50 per quarter for City of Rockville residential customers — that will appear as a separate line item charges on water/sewer bills beginning Jan. 1.

Revenue from the fund will upgrade wastewater treatment plants throughout Maryland and help to reduce levels of harmful nutrients in wastewater.

Non-residential City of Rockville customers will be charged on a sliding scale fee based on the number of equivalent dwelling units (EDUs).

For more information, including details on the charges for non-residential customers, call the Maryland Department of the Environment at 1-800-633-6101 or visit its Web site at www.mde.state.md.us.

CALL **1-800-633-6101** FOR INFO

Camps Guide In the Mail Late January

The Summer Camps Guide will be online Jan. 9 and mailed to residents Jan. 28. Resident registration

begins Feb. 10. Non-resident registration starts Feb. 24.

The City also is taking applications for fun, energetic and dedicated camp staff.

CALL **240-314-8620** FOR INFO

I-270 Bridge Public Meeting Scheduled

A public meeting to discuss proposed changes to the plan for a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across I-270 at Maryland Route 28 (West Montgomery Avenue) and connecting path is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 13, in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall.

Displays depicting the revised plans will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/bicycling.

CALL **240-314-8627** FOR INFO

Grants Available for Nonprofit Agencies

Nonprofit agencies providing human services to Rockville residents may apply to receive funds through the City's FY 06 grant program.

The City awarded grants totaling \$371,794 to 23 programs in FY 05.

The instructions and application form are available at

www.rockvillemd.gov or by calling 240-314-8303. The deadline is Jan. 28.

CALL **240-314-8303** FOR INFO

Police Academy Sign-ups Have Begun

Enjoy television shows like *Law & Order*, *NYPD Blue* and *Crime Scene Investigation*? Then Rockville's Citizen's Police Academy may be for you.

Go behind-the-scenes at the City's Police Department at a 10-week course covering topics such as patrol operations, criminal law, deadly force and more. The free program will be held every Tuesday March 1-May 3 at Glenview Mansion from 6:30-9 p.m.

Register in advance by calling 240-314-8922.

CALL **240-314-8922** FOR INFO

College Gardens Stormwater Meeting

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Rockville Senior Center, College Gardens residents are invited to meet with representatives of the Department of Public Works to discuss options for simple measures to reduce storm runoff and capture pollutants in their area.

A number of locations have been identified in public areas and common open space to im-



BRUNCH IN STYLE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY... *The raffle is one popular part of Peerless Rockville's Annual New Year's Day Brunch from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Glenview Mansion. This year, participants will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the event. Join the festivities by bringing friends, family and a favorite food dish. Tickets are \$15 per person for general admission. For tickets or more information, call 301-762-0096 or visit www.peerlessrockville.org.*

prove stormwater runoff and would like neighborhood feedback. The results of the resident watershed behavior survey conducted in October also will be presented. (Meeting snow date is Jan. 25.)

CALL **240-314-8500** FOR INFO

Two New High-tech Workshops Offered

High-Speed Wireless Internet and *Computer Viruses & Spam E-mails* are two new workshops of-

fered for people interested in getting the most from their computers. Two sessions for each class will take place from 7-9 p.m. in February at the Rockville Senior Center.

The fee is \$19 for residents / \$22 for non-residents for each class. *High-Speed Wireless Internet* will be held Tuesdays, Feb. 8 and 15, and *Computer Viruses & Spam E-mails* will take place Wednesdays, Feb. 9 and 16.

CALL **240-314-8620** FOR INFO

CITY

1 Peerless Rockville's 30th Annual New Year's Day Brunch Bring friends, family and a dish. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Glenview Mansion in Rockville Civic Center Park. \$15 general admission. 301-762-0096

7,21 MOBY Medical Clinic Primary medical care for low-income, uninsured, working-poor and homeless people in Montgomery County. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

14,28 MOBY Medical Clinic Primary medical care for low-income, uninsured, working-poor and homeless people in Montgomery County. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Lincoln Park Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

15 Off-Leash Dog Testing Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. 10 a.m. Swim Center Outdoor Entrance Parking Lot. 240-314-8930

22 Cross-Country Ski Trip 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Ages 13-over. \$50 RES/\$62 NR. Register by Jan. 10. 240-314-8641

29 Mystery Trip and Tour 12 noon-7 p.m. Ages 16-over. \$62 RES/\$78 NR. Register by Jan. 15. 240-314-8641

ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville's Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006. Tickets may be purchased online at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre. Service charges apply.

9-Feb1 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery L.S. King "Vestiges of Victory: A Reminiscence from the First WWII Amphibious Training Base" (digital photography). Prescott Moore Lassman "Domesticated Animals" (photography/ silver gelatin prints). Elke Seefeldt (ceram-

january calendar of events

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

ics - pitfired & fumed vessels). Reception: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9. Artist Talk: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20. Guided gallery tour: Friday, Jan. 21. For more information call, 240-314-8682

9 Glenview Mansion Sunday Afternoon Concert Series The Lovejoy Group. Jazz plus Afro and Cuban rhythms. Sunday, 2-3 p.m. FREE. For more information call, 240-314-8682

14 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Deadline for 2006 Call for Entries for Exhibits. For more information call 240-314-8682 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov.

14,15,16 Musical Theatre Center presents "Annie Get Your Gun." Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. Montgomery College in Rockville. Tickets: \$15.50 for adults, \$13.50 for children/students/seniors. For tickets, call 301-251-5766

30 Rockville Concert Band "Chamber Ensemble Concert" 3 p.m. FREE, tickets required. Box office: 240-314-8690.

30 Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra Listen to music performed by this 40-member student orchestra under the direction of Leah Kocsis. 7:30 p.m. FREE, tickets required. For tickets, call the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office at 240-314-8690.

NATURE

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.

5 Snowflakes and Crystals 4-5 p.m. Ages 6-9. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

12 Tiny Tot Walk-Owls Have a hootin' time imitating calls of these feathered hunters. Take a tiny walk and made a craft. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Ages: 1 1/2-2. 1-2 p.m. Ages: 3-5. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

13 Snow Bound Red Fox Learn about the Red Fox and how to track it in the winter snow. Take a hike, look for fox dens and make a craft. 7-8 p.m. Ages 3-6. 10-11 a.m. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

14 Owl Prowl Search the woods and stream valley for these nocturnal hunters. Learn what owls might live in your neighborhood and how you can find them. 7-8 p.m. Ages 4-over. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

22 Women in Science The first of the new Croydon Creek High School Science Lecture series. Women from several different sciences will discuss their education, research and work. Pre-registration not required, but call to register. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Ages 13-18. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.

27 Build a Birdfeeder Make two different types of bird feeders and learn how to recognize who is the feeder. 9-11 a.m. Ages 3 and up. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.

29 Short-eared Owl and Bald Eagle Tour View bald eagles and short-eared owls at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Bring binoculars, bag lunch, water, appropriate walking shoes and dress for the weather. Fee includes leadership, transportation and fees. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Ages 18-over. \$28 RES/\$35 NR.

30 Groundhog Day Celebration Celebrate with the most famous animal forecaster with games, crafts and more. 2-4 p.m. All ages. FREE

SENIORS

All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800

11,13,18 Computer Essentials Build the necessary foundation toward a better understanding of computer terms and uses. 10 a.m.-12 noon. MEM \$21/NM \$25. Registration required.

11 Images of Maryland 10:30 a.m.-12 noon FREE. Register by Jan. 4.

11,18,25 Beginning Watercolor 1-3 p.m. \$49 MEM / \$61 NM. Register by Jan.11.

12,19,26 Money Workshops for Individual Investors 1-2:30 p.m. FREE

18 Organizing Made Simple 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$7 MEM / \$9 NM. Register by Jan.10.

19 Explore the Woodshop 10 a.m.-12 noon FREE. Register by Jan. 12.

19,26 Quilting —Introduction for the Beginner 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$20 MEM / \$25 NM Register by Jan. 5.

20 How To Purchase And Use A Digital Camera 1-3 p.m. FREE. Registration required.

20 The Importance Of Exercise And Aging Discussion of the benefits of exercise for seniors.1-2 p.m. FREE

24,31 Piecemakers Quilting Club 12:45-2:45 p.m. \$8 MEM / \$10 NM. Register by Jan. 10.

25,26 AARP Defensive Driving 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$10 payable to AARP. Register by Jan. 11.

27 Introduction to Jazz 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. FREE. Register by Jan. 13.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

8 Board of Appeals, 9:30 a.m.

11 Human Services Advisory Commission, 7:30 p.m., Azalea Room, Senior Center

11 Commission on the Environment, 7:30 p.m.

12 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

12 Cultural Arts Commission, 7 p.m., Social Hall, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

18 Historic District Commission, 7 p.m.

18 Rockville Seniors, Inc., 1 p.m., Senior Center

18 Town Center Action Team, 7 p.m., Room 105, Red Brick Courthouse

19 Rockville Housing Enterprises, 6:30 p.m., 14 Moore Dr.

19 Sign Review Board, 4 p.m. (held as needed)

20 Rockville Sister City Corporation, 7:30 p.m.

20 Senior Citizens Commission, 10 a.m., Senior Center

25 Traffic and Transportation Commission, 7:30 p.m.

26 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

26 Human Rights Commission, 7:30 p.m.

27 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 7 p.m.

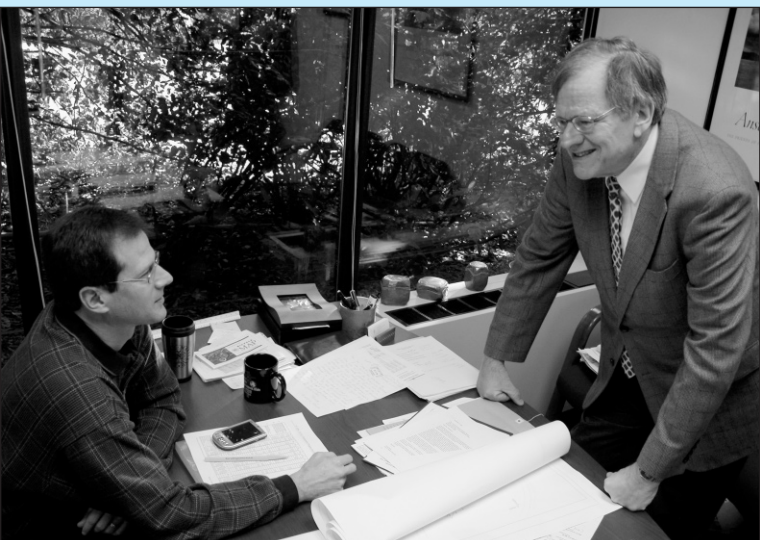
28 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., 95 Monroe Street (call 301-315-8096)

Rockville Up Close: Menaker Makes Mark On Rockville

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

For more than 10 years, Mike Menaker has served on the Rockshire Homeowners Association board, making contributions to improve the lives of not only his neighbors, but also those who live and work throughout the City.

Menaker recently stepped down as Rockshire’s president to pursue a degree in engineering. However, the 33-year resident has some advice to share for those who may be thinking of becoming involved in City government. Menaker first became active in local City issues when he became concerned about a new playground that was built across the street from his house. “My neighbor and I,



Mike Menaker (right) stops to talk with City Traffic and Transportation Director Larry Marcus at City Hall.

who both don’t have kids, were upset because we didn’t like the way it looked. People were parking in our spaces and even sitting on my neighbors’ stoop,” said Menaker. “I expressed my discontent with the playground and four or five years later, it was moved to a new location, mostly because of safety problems with tree roots. But I was satisfied.”

However there were other issues that arose that Menaker

felt he could give input. He provided feedback on several traffic calming projects, including the new traffic circles between Hurley Avenue and Wootton Parkway and worked with City transportation officials to advocate for a lane divide on Maryland Route 28 (a state road). As an elected representative of Rockshire residents, he served as the community’s treasurer for six years and president for the last four.

“I was thrilled that the lane divide on Route 28 got done,” he said. “There are many other projects that we’re [the Rockshire Board] involved in though.”

These issues include the Watts Branch stream restoration, a bike-pedestrian bridge across I-270 and others.

“Nothing gets done when people just complain,” he said. “I tell them, ‘If you really want to have some input on this, join a committee or a board. If you want to be part of the community and have things done your way— or at least understand why they can’t be done your way— then you have to participate.’ People tell me they don’t have the time, but one evening a month is not much to give up.”

Contact your local homeowner or civic association if you are interested in becoming involved. Openings on City boards and commissions also are regularly advertised on page 5 of *Rockville Reports*. Call the City Clerk’s office for more information at 240-314-8280. [RR](#)



There are many ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations by volunteering in the City. Each month “Volunteer Time” highlights a different opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

For decades the Rockville Library has served citizens, not only lending 600,000-700,000 books each year, but also providing a wide variety of services and programs for citizens.

The Rockville branch is unique from other Montgomery County libraries as it has the only law collection, as well as a special collection of materials for children.

It takes an army of volunteers to support the high demand for library services in Rockville, especially now that the City will be home to the largest library in Montgomery County as part of the new Rockville Town Center.

“The library belongs to the community,” said Daniel Beavin, manger of the Rockville Library. “We want to make sure the library reflects the citizen’s needs and interest.”

That is why it is vital that volunteers participate in two major ways. People of all talents are needed to join the Friends of the Rockville Library, a nonprofit fundraising arm.

“The funds we raise go to special projects and things that are not covered by the budget,” said co-chair Barbara Herman. “We have bought magazines for teens and younger children as well as certain books. We also will support special exhibits in the new library.”

Friends of the Rockville Library meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the library’s boardroom. New members are always welcome.

Another way to participate, and earn some extra cash, is by signing up to be an adult library-shelving assistant. For two hours, five or six days each week, the assistant organizes materials alphabetically and numerically in a timely manner. Starting pay is \$5.15 per hour.

For more information on volunteering with the library, contact the volunteer coordinator, Yan Tang, at 240-777-0154. [RR](#)

City Launches More User-friendly Online Permits Site

Beginning in January, the process for obtaining many permits and licenses in Rockville will become quicker and easier with the launch of an enhanced online section of the City’s Web site.

The Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov not only will make permit and license applications accessible over the Internet, but also it will provide help for residents and business owners who may be unfamiliar with City regulations that require permits/li-

censes and guide them on what steps to take to properly secure the needed approvals.

The site will be a convenient and time-saving help to anyone who would like to construct a new building, extend their existing building, install a driveway and/or driveway apron, apply for annexation into the City, receive permits, participate in the comprehensive transportation review, construct a new development and much more.

The site also includes a list

of fees to assist with project budgets.

Once the appropriate paperwork has been submitted, the online feature also allows users to check the status of their permit applications without making a trip to City Hall.

If an inspection is scheduled, a check of the site after 9 a.m. on the day of the inspection will show if the inspector is scheduled to arrive in the morning or afternoon.

“One of the primary ways citizens and business owners

interface with the City is because they need approval, permits or licenses for their projects,” said Betsy Robbins, the City’s Web administrator. “We receive many inquiries about how residents and businesses owners can make improvements on property in and around the City. Now, by going online, people can have many of their questions answered, and get nearly all of the forms they need to submit to us, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.” [RR](#)

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL JANUARY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾
6 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 am	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 am	Caregivers: Homeless	Hi-Tech Patrol	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Hi-Tech Patrol	Caregivers: Homeless	Annual Report	Caregivers: Homeless
7:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 am	Mayor & Council ▾	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▾
9 am	▾	Mayor's Presentation: Economic Dev. Trip to China ▾	Mayor Presents: China ▾	Governor's Meeting ▾	RU: Planning & Community Development ▾	Annual Report	RU: Planning & Community Development ▾
9:30 am	▾	▾	▾	▾	▾	Hi-Tech Patrol	▾
10 am	▾	▾	▾	▾	▾	Exploring Rockville's Past	▾
10:30 am	▾	Hi-Tech Patrol	Exploring Rockville's Past	Caregivers: Homeless	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Annual Report	▾
11 am	Cityline	Caregivers: Homeless	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Exploring Rockville's Past	Caregivers: Homeless	Hi-Tech Patrol	Cityline
11:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 pm	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 pm until meeting ends	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾
4 pm	Mayor Presents: China ▾	Governor's Meeting ▾	▾	RU: Planning & Community Development ▾	Annual Report	▾	Mayor's Presentation: Economic Dev. Trip to China ▾
4:30 pm	▾	▾	Annual Report	▾	Destination: rockvillemd.gov and Discuss Rockville ▾	Governor & Cabinet Visit	▾
5 pm	▾	▾	Hi-Tech Patrol	▾	Exploring Rockville's Past	▾	▾
5:30 pm	Caregivers: Homeless	Caregivers: Homeless	Exploring Rockville's Past	Hi-Tech Patrol	▾	Every 15 Minutes	▾
6 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 pm	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	RU: Planning & Community Development ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Caregivers: Homeless	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor's Presentation: Economic Dev. Trip to China ▾
7:30 pm	▾	▾	▾	▾	Every 15 Minutes	▾	▾
8 pm	▾	▾	▾	▾	▾	Mayor Presents: China ▾	Governor's Meeting ▾
8:30 pm	▾	▾	Every 15 Minutes	▾	▾	▾	▾
9 pm	▾	▾	Caregivers: Homeless	▾	▾	▾	▾
9:30 pm	▾	▾	Cityline	▾	Cityline	▾	Cityline
10 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 pm	Hi-Tech Patrol	Every 15 Minutes	Exploring Rockville's Past	Caregivers: Homeless	Every 15 Minutes	Hi-Tech Patrol	Annual Report
11:30 pm	Annual Report	Caregivers: Homeless	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Hi-Tech Patrol	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Caregivers: Homeless	Exploring Rockville's Past



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